

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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R 140845Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9772

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CONAKRY 0711

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : PDEV GV

SUBJECT : GUINEAN PARTY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

1. GUINEA'S PARTY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS ARE BEING OBSERVED WITH THE USUAL ELABORATE CEREMONIES, BUT WITHOUT ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW PROGRAMS OR POLICIES. VERY FEW FOREIGN DELEGATIONS WERE PRESENT. ONLY TWO WERE ANNOUNCED DURING STADIUM FESTIVITIES (SYRIAN BA'ATH PARTY AND DELEGATION FROM CONGO (B); OTHER FOREIGN DELEGATIONS IN ATTENDANCE HAD COME TO CONAKRY FOR OTHER PURPOSES).

2. PRESIDENT TOURE'S MAY 12 SPEECH TO A STADIUM MASS MEETING EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. HE ALSO ATTACKED THE NOW TRADITIONAL ENEMIES SUCH AS SENGHOR AND HOUPHOUET AND THE FOUR "ISMS", AND COMMENTED ON RECENT EVENTS IN PORTUGAL, WEST GERMANY, NIGER, AND FRANCE. THE ARAB OIL BOYCOTT AND PRICE INCREASES WERE AGAIN HAILED AS "PERFECTLY JUST." THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN GUINEAN SOCIETY HAS BEEN MENTIONED IN SEVERAL SPEECHES RELATING TO THE PARTY ANNIVERSARY.

3. THE PRESIDENT REFERRED TO GUINEA'S IMAGE IN THE "IMPERIAL-IST PRESS" AS LACKING FOODSTUFFS, AND REITERATED GUINEA'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRIDE IN CONTROLLING ITS OWN DESTINIES, EVEN AT THE COST OF

TEMPORARY POVERTY.

4. COMMENT: TOURE'S PERSONAL CONCERN THAT THE CURRENT FOOD CRISIS COULD LEAD TO POLITICAL INSTABILITY CAME THROUGH INDIRECTLY IN THE SPEECH. AS REPORTED SEPTELS, HE HAS TWICE MENTIONED TO ME IN PRIVATE THAT IT IS ONLY THE DISCIPLINE OF GUINEA'S LEADERS AND PEOPLE THAT HAD AVOIDED UNREST IN THE CURRENT CRISIS. THIS LATEST SPEECH OFFERED THE SAME IDEOLOGICAL BASIS FOR THE REGIME AS IN THE PAST. AS ALWAYS, THE CELEBRATIONS WERE WILL ORGANIZED AND IMPRESSIVELY EXECUTED. NO NEW DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS (EXCEPT, PERHAPS, AN INCREASED EMPHASIS ON AGRICULTURE) WERE ANNOUNCED. NOR DID PRESIDENT ANNOUNCE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, CONTRARY TO ANTICIPATIONS OF SOME OBSERVERS. PRESIDENT'S SPEECH, CROWD'S RESPONSE, AND CEREMONIES IN GENERAL CONSTITUTED NEW DEMONSTRATION OF SEKOU TOURE'S CHARISMA, AND DISCIPLINE OF CADRES AND POPULATIONS, EVEN IN DIFFICULT TIMES.
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